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December 13, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

I am a resident of Vermont and writing you in support of the comments submitted by Catamount Access Television (CAT-TV) and the Cable Act Preservation Alliance (CAPA). I oppose the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25th Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, MB Docket 05-311.

I have had an opportunity to see the great service CAT-TV provides our community. I served six years on the Town of Shaftsbury Selectboard, four years as chair. Shaftsbury is a small rural town in southwestern Vermont. Shaftsbury is one of six towns in southern Bennington County, sharing a schools and services. During my tenure on the Selectboard, CAT-TV broadcast our meetings. Regularly, when going about my business or running errands in the community, people would approach me to talk about a Selectboard meeting they had seen on CAT-TV. I was surprised by the number of people who watched our meetings. My experience informed me that CAT-TV was an important tool for keeping citizens informed about the doings of their local government.

My wife and I work for a non-profit, economic development project, assisting women in Haiti. Our organization has held fundraising events and sales of Haitian goods as part of our volunteer work. CAT-TV has been a valued partner, helping us spread the word about our organization.

Our town has a technical education center that provides high school students and adults an opportunity to leave a trade. One course at the center teaches video production. Many of the technical centers students have gained valuable experience working or volunteering for CAT-TV. It has also provided an opportunity for community volunteers to learn and be involved in local

television production. I cannot emphasize enough how important CAT-TV has been for the towns of southwestern Vermont.

CAT-TV provides the folks in our area an opportunity to share information of local interest that is not available in another medium. CAT-TV gives members of the community a method for communicating with the larger community. A community television station, like CAT-TV, that broadcasts subjects viewpoints of local interest is invaluable for our community.

The PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act were intended to give local voices a way to be heard. The PEG provisions enriched our community by providing a vehicle for making government meetings more accessible and by providing a platform for broadcasting content of local interest. One important benefit is that CAT-TV strengthens our democracy by giving folks of means of watching local board meetings and public presentations. An informed electorate makes for sounder decisions at the ballot box.

By defining "franchise fee" in an overly broad fashion to include "in-kind" support, the FCC's proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels - something that was never the intent of the Act.

Thank you for considering my opinion. I hope the Commissioners will protect PEG Access in our community by leaving the current rules in place. Adopting the proposals in the Further Notice threatens the financial viability of CAT-TV and its peers through the nation..

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lon McClintock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lon T. McClintock, Esq.